Rec'd July 26
Ans July 31

Woodlawn Mansion
Sunday July 22d 1873

Dr George Engelmann.

My dear Sir:

I have just received a copy of the Transactions of the Academy of Science of St Louis, addressed to my father. It has been a very long time since we have heard from you, and I suppose that no letter from father has reached you since early the year? I have intended often to write to you to let you know something regarding my dear father's condition; but the great anxiety of mind and the continuous attention he required, at my hands, has kept me so very much engaged that it has been scarcely possible for me to attend to letter writing. Father's health has been failing gradually, since over one year; but since

in getting together a collection of plants to complete the one he had given to the Garden of Plants of Paris, and had willed it to that Institution, with direction that I should forward it immediately after his death. As he was unable to attend to it, I had it packed up carefully, and placed it at an Academy of Science, where it remained nearly one year. During that it would be eaten up by insects and become in time totally worthless. I made up my mind to send it on immediately, and some months ago despatched by the Express, learning previously, notified Mr Brogniard of my intention. I believe, my dear Sir, that in doing this I have carried out my poor father's wishes, and were he in a frame of mind to permit any talking with him on the subject, I feel fully satisfied that he would approve fully of my actions in the matter.

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six or eight months, his disease has taken a most decided turn, and our physician has declared has come to be a chronic softening of the brain, which has been increasing in intensity each day, until it has now reached a point when all trace of rational conversation has ceased, and where his intimate friends are not even recognized by him. We are now passing the summer months in the country, and shall only return to the city when the cool weather returns. My poor father has failed very much, since about two weeks, and I scarcely hope to keep him long with me. I hardly think it possible for me, even under the circumstances, for the world can have no more charms for him, to make up my mind to part with him, and get it down to be the will of God that the time is fast approaching when he must appear in that last home "from whence no traveller ever returns".

My poor father was very busily engaged

We have often spoken in the family of your agreeable visit to the city, and although, dear Sir, I have been remiss in my writing to you, it has not been, rest assured, that I have not often thought of you. I should be pleased to hear from you, & with your many occupations, you can find a leisure moment to write to me. I would be too happy were it possible for me to take you that position at and Mrs Engelmann his kindest regards. but the pen mind is too far gone for that. With the most affectionate remembrances of Mrs Durand and myself to you and your good lady

I remain truly Yours

A. D. Durand

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